

College Planning Calendar

Juniors

September

- Inform counselor that you're planning to go to college. Make sure you're scheduled to take math, English, science, and social studies in your junior and senior year. Also, make sure that you will have had at least two years of a world language
- Start collecting information about colleges
- Get to know the school's sources of information in the Career Center
- Arrange to take the PSAT in October

October

- Attend National College Fair in Portland
- Assess yourself. Make a list of your reasons for going to college
- Take the PSAT

November

- Start exploring your career interests
- Gather more information about college. Start building a file about yourself and your achievements

December

- You will receive your PSAT score

January

- Focus on your high school grades. Your grades will be an important part of your college application
- Prepare to take the SAT/ACT in the spring

February

- Start a list of the colleges that interest you
- Increase/focus on accumulating community service hours and accomplishments. Record hours.

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March

- Sign up to take the May or June SAT

April

- Begin to collect information on the colleges you have on your list. Include information from catalogs, campus visits and campus interviews
- Start investigating private scholarship programs and competitions for which you might be eligible. Start a scholarship file.
- Schedule to visit colleges and universities. Book a campus tour, meal, and freshman class visit
- Sign up to take June SAT Subject Test(s) if applying to colleges that require them (usually private)

May

- Watch your local newspaper for articles about graduating seniors who have won community scholarships. Clip leads for your private scholarship file
- Schedule to visit colleges and universities. Book a campus tour, meal, and freshman class visit
- Take May SAT

June

- Take SAT Subject Tests (usually required only for private colleges and universities)
- Take SAT/ACT, if you didn't take it in May

July/August

- Download and complete the senior résumé, parent perception, and achievement forms from counseling website <http://www2.corvallis.k12.or.us/cvhs/counseling/>
- Educate yourself about financial aid-what it is, who gets it, and how to apply.
- Make a list of challenging books you'll read this summer. Reading widely is an excellent way to prepare for admissions tests
- Review the information you have researched on your list of colleges.
- Develop a tentative list of schools to which you will apply. Consider at least one reach, one target, and one safety school.
- Campus visits

College Planning Calendar

Seniors

September

- If you haven't already, request admissions and financial aid applications from the colleges to which you want to apply (or download their forms)
- Make a list of what you'll have to submit and when it must reach each college – test scores, essays, recommendations, financial aid forms, housing options, and application
- If you're applying for early decision, start filling out the application now
- Register to take the SAT/ACT in the early fall if you haven't taken these tests yet or if you want to see if you can improve your score
- If you need recommendations, meet with your counselor to develop the recommendation packet (usually only needed for private colleges/universities and some public honors colleges)
- Schedule campus visits
- Pick up CV's Scholarship Packet in Career Center (or download from CV website)

October

- Prepare an outline for the essays required on the college application
- Meet with a college admissions representative visiting your school (Career Center for more info)
- Start filling out your college application forms. Make sure you know when the deadline is for each application
- Complete the transcript request form in Registrar's office for each of the colleges to which you are applying (these can be downloaded from the Crescent Valley Counseling website)
- Schedule campus visits

November

- Complete drafts of application essays and ask your English teacher or college essay service in Career Center to evaluate them
- Investigate potential sources of financial aid
- Parent and student each apply for FAFSA PIN (www.fafsa.gov)

December

- You and your parents attend Financial Aid Night
- You and your parents start filling out the FAFSA

College Planning Calendar

Seniors

January

- Mail/Submit the FAFSA online as soon after January 1st as possible. (www.fafsa.gov)
- Prepare for course exams. Grades and class rank are very important
- Review scholarship packet and create a calendar to follow for each scholarship opportunity.

February

- If you are planning to take the AP exams in May. Let the appropriate person know
- Keep track of scholarship deadlines

March

- Continue to investigate all possible sources of financial aid. This is the middle of the scholarship season

April

- Most colleges let students know their decisions this month
- Most colleges let students know their financial aid packages this month
- If you are accepted by more than one college, you must make a choice
- If you are wait-listed at a college you are eager to attend, call the director of admissions and ask how you can strengthen your application
- Visit colleges that have accepted you

May

- Let college know of your decision to accept or not
- Send the acceptance deposit by the deadline
- If you awarded financial aid, be sure to formally accept the offer from the college
- If you are taking an AP exam, know the date and time of the test

June

- Notify high school of which college you have selected so we can submit final grades, class rank, and proof of graduation
- Respond promptly to all requests from your college
- Write a thank you note to teachers that have written letters of recommendation for you